

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 148783

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, SHUM, PARM, ENRG, BR

SUBJECT:LETTER TO SECRETARY FROM FONMIN SILVEIRA

REF: STATE 144678

1. FOR EMBASSY'S INFORMATION, FOLLOWING IS UNOFFICIAL
TRANSLATION OF LETTER FROM FOREIGN MINISTER SILVEIRA TO
THE SECRETARY, DATED JUNE 22 AND DELIVERED BY BRAZILIAN
EMBASSY JUNE 23.

2. BEGIN TEXT: MY DEAR MR. SECRETARY, I HAVE JUST
RECEIVED FROM THE AMERICAN EMBASSY THE LETTER, DATED OF
YESTERDAY, IN WHICH YOU MENTION OUR LAST MEETING, IN
GRENADA, AND ASSESS IN BROAD LINES THE TALKS WE HAD ON
THAT OCCASION.

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3- THE EXCHANGE OF IDEAS WE HAD WAS VERY USEFUL FOR
ME ALSO. LIKE YOURSELF, I BELIEVE THAT AN OPEN EXCHANGE
OF OPINIONS AND IMPRESSIONS, FREE FROM THE PREOCCUPATION
OF WINNING OR CONVINCING, BUT ORIENTED HONESTLY TOWARDS
UNDERSTANDING AND BEING UNDERSTOOD, CAN CLEAR MISUNDER-
STANDINGS, ENHANCE COOPERATION AND ULTIMATELY BETTER
CONTRIBUTE TO FULFILL THE PARTICULAR LEGITIMATE INTERESTS

OF BOTH SIDES.

4. I MUST ADMIT THAT I WAS DEEPLY WORRIED WITH THE DIRECTION IN WHICH THE RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS HAD BEEN MOVING FROM JANUARY 1977 ON. SINCE OUR FIRST MEETING, IN PARIS, AND NOW, AFTER OUR TALKS IN ST. GEORGE'S, I FEEL OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE PROSPECTS OF MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING.

5. IN YOUR LETTER, YOU MENTION OUR DIVERGENT PERCEPTIONS ON THE ROLE OF THE INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION. IN THIS RESPECT, I BELIEVE THAT THE OBJECTIVES OF OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS IN WHAT CONCERNS THE SUPPORT AND PROMOTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, IF NOT IDENTICAL, ARE AT LEAST VERY SIMILAR. IF WE DIVERGE, IT IS ON THE PRIORITIES AND ON THE METHODS OF REACHING THOSE OBJECTIVES. AS FOR THE PRIORITIES, WE BELIEVE THAT EACH SOCIETY, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LEVEL OF ITS SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT WILL HAVE SPECIFIC PRIORITIES, WHICH MUST BE RESPECTED INSOFAR AS THEY ARE CONDITIONED UPON EACH STATE'S PECULIAR CHARACTERISTICS. AS FOR THE METHODS, WE BELIEVE THAT THE MAIN OBJECTIVE OF ALL MUST BE TO ACHIEVE, IN AN EFFICIENT MANNER, THOSE CONDITIONS IN WHICH THE INDIVIDUAL MAY FIND COMPLETE FULFILLMENT AND ENJOY HIS RIGHTS. WE FAVOR, THUS, FORMS OF POSITIVE AND VOLUNTARY COOPERATION, AS OPPOSED TO FORCED INVESTIGATIVE ACTIONS; EVEN MORE SO
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BECAUSE WE DO NOT BELIEVE IT IS POSSIBLE TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE RIGHT OF ANY STATE, OR GROUP OF STATES, TO TRY ANOTHER. WE UNDERSTAND CERTAIN MOTIVATIONS OF THE UNITED STATES, PARTICULARLY IN WHAT CONCERNS ITS POLICY TOWARDS COMMUNIST COUNTRIES. FOR THIS REASON, WE DO NOT TAKE A POSITION OF ARGUING WITH THE U.S. GOVERNMENT. WE SEEK TO BE PRAGMATIC ON THE SUBJECT. BY THE WAY, LET ME SAY THAT, IN MY OPINION, THE STATEMENTS BY THE SPOKESMAN FOR THE AMERICAN EMBASSY, PUBLISHED IN THE "JORNAL DO BRASIL" ON JUNE 20TH, WERE VERY CONSTRUCTIVE.

6. IN WHAT CONCERNS THE PROBLEM OF NON-PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS, AS YOU KNOW OUR STANDING IS ALSO PARTLY CONVERGENT WITH THAT OF THE UNITED STATES, INASMUCH AS BRAZIL IS STRONGLY OPPOSED TO THE PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS. I SAID "PARTLY" BECAUSE, APART FROM BEING OPPOSED TO HORIZONTAL PROLIFERATION WE ALSO ARE, WITH EVEN MORE REASON, VERY MUCH AGAINST VERTICAL PROLIFERATION. WE DISAGREE ON THE POINT THAT THE BEST WAY TO AVOID THE FORMER WOULD BE THE PROHIBITION OF THE TRANSFER OF NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY. WE DISAGREE, IN THE FIRST PLACE, BECAUSE WE DON'T THINK IT WOULD BE EFFECTIVE

AND, IN THE SECOND PLACE, BECAUSE IT IS UNFAIR TO THOSE COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE ENORMOUS ENERGETIC NEEDS AND LACK ALTERNATIVE SOURCES OF ENERGY. WE ARE ABSOLUTELY CONVINCED THAT, AT THE PRESENT STAGE OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY'S STRUCTURE, SAFEGUARDS ARE THE ONLY ADEQUATE MEANS OF CURBING THE PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS. HOWEVER, BRAZIL IS READY TO EXAMINE WITH THE UNITED STATES THE GLOBAL ASPECTS OF THE PROBLEM, ALWAYS IN THE UNDERSTANDING, OF COURSE, THAT THIS WILL NOT IMPLY ANY CHANGE IN ITS PROGRAM FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES. ON THE OTHER HAND, IT IS ALSO CLEAR THAT BRAZIL MUST PARTICIPATE IN ALL DECISIONS RESULTING FROM THESE STUDIES THAT MAY AFFECT ITS FUTURE.

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7. AS I TOLD YOU BEFORE, THE DELEGATIONS OF BRAZIL TO THE LAW OF THE SEAS CONFERENCE AND TO THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ARE PREPARED TO KEEP IN CONSTANT CONSULTATION WITH THE DELEGATIONS OF THE UNITED STATES IN ALL MATTERS OF MUTUAL INTEREST. I AM SURE THAT IT WILL NOT BE DIFFICULT TO FIND AREAS OF AGREEMENT, PARTICULARLY IN WHAT RESPECTS ILLICIT PAYMENTS.

8. I THANK YOU FOR CONFIRMING THAT THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS REMAINS IN FORCE. I WILL BE INDEED VERY PLEASED TO RECEIVE YOUR VISIT IN OCTOBER, WITHIN THE ESTABLISHED FRAMEWORK FOR INTER-GOVERNMENTAL CONSULTATIONS. IN THE MEANTIME, I MYSELF AND MY ADVISERS WILL BE READY FOR THE NECESSARY PREPARATORY WORK. I BELIEVE THAT PERSONAL CONTACTS AT THE DIFFERENT LEVELS OF OUR TWO CHANCERIES WILL ALSO CONTRIBUTE, IN AN IMPORTANT WAY, TO A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF OUR MUTUAL POSITIONS. WARMEST REGARDS, END TEXT.

VANCE

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